

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



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**SF 2286** – Stray Voltage, Damages and Remedies (LSB 5428SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Requested by Senator Rick Bertrand

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## **Description**

**Senate File 2286** relates to claims of stray electric current or voltage negatively affecting dairy cows. The Iowa Utilities Board will establish standard protocols for measuring stray voltage through administrative rules. Dairy producers will file a written notice with the utility stating that the cows are being affected by stray voltage and may file with the Utility Board to participate in the stray voltage program. Within 14 days of the notice, the utility must be permitted to take measurements and is required to abide by the dairy farm's biosecurity protocols. The farmer or the utility may request the Utility Board to take separate independent measurements and provide the results to both the farmer and utility. The farmer must participate in the stray voltage program prior to commencing civil action against the utility. The Utility Board's written document is admissible as evidence, but the courts will determine civil damages based on evidence from both parties.

## **Assumptions**

- The Utility Board will have a stray voltage program operational in the fourth quarter of FY 2012.
- A senior utility analyst will spend half of his or her time preparing administrative rules, reviewing cases, securing a third-party vendor to conduct testing, and coordinating with the vendor to conduct the required testing.
- There will be two requests in FY 2012 and 12 cases annually beginning in FY 2013.
- The average cost per test will be \$5,000.
- Any costs to the Utility Board will be recovered from the utilities through standard assessments and deposited in the Commerce Revolving Fund.

## **Fiscal Impact**

There is no impact to the State General Fund.

The costs for the Utility Board are estimated to be \$25,000 for FY 2012 and \$120,000 annually beginning in FY 2013. The costs will be recovered by assessments to the utilities and deposited in the Commerce Revolving Fund.

## **Sources**

Iowa Utilities Board, Department of Commerce

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 14, 2012

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to Iowa Code [section 2.56](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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